

am proud of all I did," he said. "I regret that we hadn't done all that is imputed to us, for had we done that then, today Croatia wouldn't have had problems, there wouldn't have been people to write lies!"

In addressing his personal responsibility for the atrocities that occurred under his watch at Jasenovac, Sakic asserted the defense made famous by Goering, von Ribbentrop, and other Nazi leaders at Nuremberg: He was simply following orders. "I wasn't making decisions," Sakic declared, despite overwhelming information to the contrary, "but I obeyed the orders consciously because they were in accordance with my convictions of national interests and the efforts to preserve the biological survival of the Croatian people." During the trial, Sakic laughed at camp survivors who testified against him and claimed that he has "no guilty conscience whatsoever." Based on the appalling account of his unspeakable crimes, he certainly should have a guilty conscience.

Mr. Speaker, the Croatian Government's timely and public efforts to hold Dinko Sakic accountable for his crimes merit the appreciation of all who care about international justice and human rights. It is imperative that Croatia's leaders continue to confront the country's World War II past as they have done so effectively with the prosecution of Dinko Sakic and that the Croatian government aggressively oppose World War II and Holocaust revisionism. It is my hope that other newly democratic nations in Central and Eastern Europe will follow the example of the Sakic trial, and that they will work to honor the memory of the millions who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF
THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION
AND THE METROPOLITAN ORGANIZATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Industrial Areas Foundation Southwest Network and especially to one of their member organizations from Houston, The Metropolitan Organization, for their twenty-five years of service to the disadvantaged and underprivileged communities in the Southwestern United States. During their November meeting in San Antonio, the Industrial Areas Foundation will begin planning a "Domestic Policy Summit" to be scheduled in the Spring of 2000. We wish them success and look forward to their continued involvement in the issues important to our cities.

For 25 years, grassroots organizations in communities across seven states have been working with the IAF Southwest Network to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The list of accomplishments is a lengthy one, and touches on many aspects of everyday life. In my home state of Texas, IAF Southwest Network has been involved in convincing municipalities to raise the minimum wage to a living wage; in improving

the conditions in the communities along the Texas-Mexican border, the so-called "colonias," many of which were without power, water or sewer services; fighting to bring health care coverage to the working poor; convincing the Texas Legislature to match federal dollars the Children's Health Insurance Program, ensuring that children in families up to 200% of the poverty line would have access to health care; securing millions of dollars in funding for after-school enrichment programs that keep children learning in safety instead of roaming the streets; providing job training for workers that lead to good jobs at good wages; and assisting eligible immigrants in acquiring English skills as well as assistance in preparing their application to become citizens.

The Metropolitan Organization in Houston has been at the forefront of these efforts. They have participated in voter registration drives that helped register record numbers of new voters. They have also worked tirelessly to obtain funds for street improvements, parks and recreational centers, and libraries in low-income neighborhoods. Moreover, they have provided aid for those seeking to become homeowners, encouraging people to put down roots and contribute to the revitalization of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like The Metropolitan Organization and the Industrial Areas Foundation Southwest Network that make our nation great. I commend them for their twenty-five years of hard work, and wish them success in their continuing effort to make democracy work for all citizens of our Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
LEADERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that is vitally important to our society as a whole. The New Leaders is an organization committed to empowering the African American community. Many challenges lie ahead in addressing the concerns of people of color. This organization brings young professionals together to tackle the social, economic, and political problems facing people of color. For five years, this organization used the collective resources of these young professionals to shape public policy.

Using fresh and innovative perspectives that we as policy makers desperately need, this organization has become a part of several youth education and training partnerships. The New Leaders has worked continually to increase African American leadership opportunities and to foster an environment of youth empowerment. As a member of their generation, I realize the importance of looking at our young people as assets and resources.

The New Leaders have made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing scholarship money to students, and sponsoring the highly successful and effective Take a Youth To Work Day.

Not only are The New Leaders ahead of the curve in advocating youth empowerment they also support a fair and accurate census. Historically, minorities have been under-counted and The New Leaders are committed to Census 2000 in order to ensure equal representation and ample funding to combat some of the growing concerns in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts and the achievements of The New Leaders. I also submit a position paper presented to The White House by The New Leaders for the RECORD.

THE NEW LEADERS

1999 POSITION PAPER ON YOUTH, LEADERSHIP
AND THE CENSUS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY

PRESENTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, SEPTEMBER
18, 1999

The New Leaders (TNL) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to empowering the African American community. For the last five years, TNL has been comprised primarily of Black professionals dedicated to addressing the social, economic and political issues facing people of color. We believe by leveraging our combined resources with a fresh, innovative perspective, our goal of shaping public policy will result in the organization attaining a value-added level of influence in this country.

Building upon the success the Clinton Administration has had in fostering mentoring, expanding investments in youth education and training, and creating the GEAR-UP initiative, TNL recognizes that several partnership opportunities lie ahead. Therefore, TNL recommends that the Administration put forth initiatives that further promote our young people to become actively involved in leadership and government. Additionally, these initiatives will help remedy the misrepresentation of Blacks that resulted from previous under-counts of minorities in past national census counts.

OBJECTIVE FOR INCREASING AFRICAN AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATION

TNL encourages the Clinton Administration to expand existing initiatives and/or create a new initiative design to invest in the development of governmental leadership within African American communities across this nation. To formulate a model that could be duplicated, TNL proposes the development of a demonstration project that creates a leadership institute to train and prepare African Americans to take an active role in government.

CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF BLACKS IN THE
POLITICAL PROCESS

Extreme apathy exists among a massive pool of untapped voters across this country. This apathy is prevalent in the Black community, especially among our youth. While reasons vary as to why eligible young voters are so far removed from the political process, we must find a way to reengage these individuals. Our failure to successfully address this issue will result in continued inadequate resources for undeserved minority communities.

TNL'S COMMITMENT TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Over the past few years, TNL has touched the lives of thousands by addressing the social, political and economic state of the African American community. One of TNL's primary interests has been and continues to be our youth—equipping and instructing them